Application No. 10/037,940   8   Docket No.: 56872(70904)
Amendment dated June 30, 2006
Reply to Office Action of April 5, 2006

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments cancel claims 1-4, amend independent claim 5 and add independent claim 26 and claim 27, dependent from claim 26. Claim 26 is similar in scope to claims 1 and 20.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that the Examiner has found patentable subject matter in claims 16, 22, and 23.

The pending claims define features that are not found in the prior art, or suggested by the prior art, as detailed below.

In the prior Action, U.S. Patent No. 6,738,154 to Venable was the principal reference applied to reject the then pending claims 1-19, under 35 USC 102(e) and 35 USC 103(a). The Examiner agreed with the Applicants' argument on pages 2-5 of the Amendment filed on December 27, 2005, and has withdrawn these rejections. (4/5/06 Action, page 2, paragraph 2). However, the Examiner cites a new reference to Oashi et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,767,845, in combination with Venable '154 (claims 1-11, 15, 19-21, 24, 25/21 and 25/24) and Wood, U.S. Patent No. 6,453,127 as to claim 13, 14, 17, and 18. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

The Examiner cites Oashi to overcome the admitted deficiency of Venable, namely, "said plurality of user interface sections ... arranged such that in response to a command entered by a specific user interface section, other user interface section(s) that [sic, "than"] said specific user interface section change(s) its (their) display state(s)." (Action, page 3, first full paragraph). The Examiner specifically points to Fig. 8 and Col. 13, lines 43-56 of Oashi et al. Claim 1 is cited as representative of claims 5, 20 and 25. Claims 13-14 and 17-18 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) with the Wood reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,453,127).

The present invention claims plural user interface sections that display their states, as well as the various claimed display and operation control features where actions at one interface affect another interface. These are therefore graphical interfaces with a display function.

In contrast, Venable has only a <u>single</u> interface 400 with a display. If the Examiner equates the Venable keyboard with an interface, it is not a graphic interface, and has no independent display capabilities.

Oashi et al. describes a device to record to and read out from multi-media CD's and DVD's in an efficient manner. This is an art and a technical problem quite distinct from that of the present invention. Moreover, Oashi et al. use only one display unit, whether unit 212 in Figs. 2 and 16, CRT 317 in Figs. 3, 17, and 19, and CRT 1317 in Fig. 13.

Applicants understand Fig. 8 of Oashi et al. cited by the Examiner <u>not</u> to be a display on any display unit; it is a specific example of the **data configuration** of the page stream shown more generally in Fig. 5. See Col. 8, lines 45-60 of Oashi et al. for definitions of "page," "page stream," and Fig. 5 as a "data configuration,".

While the Examiner interprets this Fig. 8 depiction of a data structure as a "partial image on a screen image" that also shows "display state information," Applicants note that the only display in Oashi et al. is the end product of the Oashi CD/DVD playback device 200, a single display, produced from a page stream reading out of the video components of information stored in the CD or DVD. "Partial images" illustrated in Fig. 8 are not themselves displayed in the form shown in Fig. 8. Rather, partial images may be displayed on a display unit as part of a played back page.

Oashi et al. teach one display, and it is not at a graphical use interface. Oashi et al. do not teach or suggest <u>plural interface sections</u> that can display their states and where commands at one section can control the display and operation at another section, as claimed.

Wood does not overcome these deficiencies or provide teachings or motivation to combine the prior art to produce the claimed invention.

The amendments in claim 5 make it clear that the present invention provides a scanner unit and a printer unit, which each include an interface section with a display section. The scanner of Venable does not include an interface section with a display section. Therefore, Venable does not change a display state of one user interface section in response to a command entered by another user interface section.

Applicants further note that pending claims 10, 19, and 20 recite that a scanner is equipped with a user interface section/display section. The scanner of Venable is not equipped with a user interface section/display section. Rather, the scanner of Venable appears to rely on control to be made via the computer.

Further, independent claim 20 requires that other user interface sections change their input acceptance states in response to an operation input by a specific user interface section. None of the references teach or suggest such a feature. Specifically, none of the references teach or suggest changing an input acceptance state for any reason, let alone in response to an operation input by a specific user interface section.

Applicants also gratefully note that the Examiner has approved the drawings, and that Applicants' claim for foreign priority is acknowledged, and the certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

Finally, the Examiner notes that while Japanese Published Application 8-297339/1996 is discussed in the specification, it is not listed on a Form 1449. This appears to be correct. This document is listed on a 1449 form and filed herewith, together with a copy of the document itself, and a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and an authorization to charge our Deposit Order Account for the requisite fee.

    In view of the above amendments and Remarks, Applicants believe that the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Dated: July 5, 2006   Respectfully submitted,

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